1. Purpose, Applicability, and Scope

This Best Management Practices (BMP) manual is a support document for an evolving stormwater management program. The latest version has been designed and structured to be a "living document" that grows, evolves, and matures along with the program it supports. It represents the current practice and state of art of the stormwater management program in the Chattanooga metropolitan area. As a supporting and largely technical document, the manual provides guidance to the implementation of an effective stormwater management program.

"Quantity follows Quality." Promote and control water quality as a first priority and water quantity control will be accomplished in the proper context. Water quantity (flooding) control at the local government level should focus on the control of more frequent storm events. The BMP Manual is consistent with this philosophy. Additionally, the manual serves as a tool for local government compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater rules.

It is the purpose and intent of the BMP Manual to provide the user and practitioner with a viable selection of approved and effective means to meet local legal requirements for stormwater management.

The BMP Manual is designed to be universally adaptable and used by local governments with their own appropriate regulatory program. While the manual could be utilized in other parts of the U.S. with similar terrain and hydrology, it is the intent for this manual to be used within Chattanooga Metropolitan Planning Area.

The manual covers the application of BMP for construction activity and property development. The manual is not an enforcement document but rather a technical guide to the proper selection and use of various physical constructs or BMP is designed to meet the governing requirements in the applicable jurisdiction.

The construction activity-related BMP are selected to be universally applicable to the entire Chattanooga Metropolitan Planning area. Property site development controls, however, are the purview of each local jurisdiction wherein compliance and regulatory programs may differ.

The BMP Manual is designed to provide measures for compliance within the context of current jurisdictional rules but it also contemplates a greater degree of engineering sophistication for an evolving storm water management program. The development and maintenance of calibrated hydrologic/water quality models for each basin is

necessary before true performance-based controls are appropriate and relationships can be made to the "total maximum daily loading" (TMDL) requirements that will become the compliance measure for local stormwater management. Until then, generalized performance measures and certain minimum controls are the option of choice.

Water quality control in Chattanooga is enforced through a permit program that requires the development and implementation of a "stormwater pollution prevention plan" (SWPPP) modeled after Tennessee's corresponding and applicable permit program. Permit compliance like the State's permit program is assessed based on the utilization of certain BMPs and the visible character of discharges from storm events. The BMP Manual provides a choice of acceptable practices that can be specified as required controls applicable to the respective permit.

Chattanooga landscape requirements are included in the appendices and are considered a part of the BMP manual for satisfying water quality and water quantity minimums for property development.

Local legislation specifies the minimum controls and performance criteria for water quantity and water quality control. In that regard, Chattanooga's regulatory program for property development is limited to its jurisdiction. Current requirements of the Chattanooga program are specified by ordinance included in the appendices.